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DATE

21 AUG 1958

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: Chief, FE 25X1C10b

General - [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Specific --Fifth World Student Congress, Peking, China,
4-13 September 1958

ACTION REQUIRED: See paragraphs III, IV and V, below.

I. BACKGROUND

A. The communist controlled International Union of Students (IUS) with headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia, is sponsoring its fifth world congress in Peking, China from 4 to 13 September 1958. The fourth Congress was held in Prague in August 1956 and, according to IUS accounts, was attended by 650 students from 65 countries, including 189 observers from non-member organizations in 22 countries. These figures undoubtedly are inflated, due to the existence of numerous paper organizations and local fronts on IUS membership roles. In reality about 80 percent of IUS membership is from the Orbit. It is expected that attendance at the Peking Congress will be about the same number or slightly larger. However, this is not certain. A recent report from IUS sources suggests that the cost of travel to Peking from many areas of the world will tend to reduce attendance. As in the past, the IUS has invited non-member organizations to attend. Some of these, such as the British National Union of Students, customarily send observers to IUS Congresses basically in order to prepare material attacking the IUS, while refusing to affiliate with the IUS and maintaining allegiance to the non-communist International Student Conference (ISC) and its secretariat, COSEC. Their attendance at the Peking Congress, therefore, should not be considered abnormal or a major gain for the IUS. Other national unions are affiliated both with the IUS and COSEC not only as a measure of "neutrality," but in order to gain maximum international recognition and support for their internal problems. IUS affiliation ranges from "associate" membership, as in the case of Tunisia, to full membership as in the case of Morocco. Beyond this standard but critical non-communist attendance, it can be expected that some representative Asian student groups, who do not customarily attend IUS meetings and who are members of COSEC but not of IUS, may attend in an observer capacity, because of the influence of China in Asian affairs today and because of the opportunity offered by the All China Students Federation of a two to three week tour of China after the Congress. Such groups are unlikely to affiliate with the IUS, but their attendance will be of assistance to IUS propaganda objectives.

B. Following is the tentative agenda for the Congress as announced by the IUS:

1. Development of the international student movement, and the contribution of the IUS and student organizations to the defense of the interests of students and the promotion of international student cooperation.

2. Report of the Executive Committee of the IUS: Work of the following Commissions:

a. Role of students in the maintenance of peace

b. Activities of students against colonialism, and the participation of students of newly independent countries in national construction and the elimination of the legacies of colonialism.

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c. The activities of students for the reform of education, the defense of student rights, and the improvement of living and study conditions.

d. Student activities in the fields of press and publicity.

e. Student activities in the fields of culture, faculty, travel and sport.

3. Adoption of recommendations of the Commission on the first point of the agenda and Commissions a. and e., above.

4. Ratification of the affiliations of new members of the IUS.

5. Report of the Finance Committee.

6. Election of the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee.

7. Any other business.

C. The primary IUS targets, as with the other communist fronts, have not been in Europe or North America, as much as they have been in the underdeveloped and "uncommitted" areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. In communist eyes, these areas represent colonial and semi-colonial peoples subject to Western imperialism and therefore prime subjects for revolutionary agitation. IUS priorities with regard to specific countries and areas have shifted from time to time, depending on overall communist strategy, particular local opportunities, restrictions imposed by hostile governments, and counteractivity by non-communist organizations. In general, it can be said that the IUS had its greatest membership strength in the period during 1946-50, before it became generally discredited as a communist front and before the International Student Conference (COSEC) was organized and grew to its present stature. However, the fact that the IUS has failed to attract representative groups in a number of countries, and the activities it sponsors are undertaken for operational reasons, as indicated in the following paragraphs, should not be allowed to obscure the fact that it has met with considerable success as a communist organizational weapon in some countries. With respect to individual areas, the following comments can be made on current IUS position and strategy:

1. Latin America. The IUS has no representative national unions of students as members in Latin America. In Ecuador and Colombia, communist directed factions are self-declared members of the IUS and send representatives to some meetings, but cannot be considered nationally representative. For a long period, IUS influence in Latin America was low, in part because its position on the Peron regime was not considered sufficiently negative by the Latin American unions. To this day, for instance, representative student elements in Argentina are bitter in their denunciation of the IUS. At the same time, in recent years the IUS has been able to use anti-American sentiment among Latin America students to propaganda advantage, and has stepped up its organizational efforts, material assistance, tailored propaganda and travel of representatives in the area. For example, the Spanish editor of the World Student News (WSN), official monthly organ of the IUS, recently sent out a circular letter to Latin American student organizations informing them that the Spanish edition of the WSN is to be revamped so that approximately one-third of each issue contains a regular Latin American section. The April 1958 edition of the WSN was a special Latin American number. During the past year, several IUS representatives traveled in Latin America and, in some cases, made an impact favorable to the IUS in the countries visited. In several cases, however, they were deported from Latin American countries and denounced as Communist agents. IUS propaganda to the area, at this point, is stressing the theme that Latin Americans have a great brotherhood with Afro-Asians since both, according to the IUS, have a common history of imperialistic exploitation and now are in a period requiring extensive national development.

2. Africa. In the first years of its existence, IUS concentrated its efforts toward Africa and chiefly on the large groups of Africans studying in France and England. They did so for several reasons: a: Educational facilities in the African countries have been limited, despite a recent growth in institutions, and the more able young leadership has studied abroad; b: Hostile African or colonial

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governments strongly resisted efforts of IUS organizers to enter their territory or propagandize in it with publications and, c: Local party apparati in England and France were able to assist in indoctrination, spotting and recruiting of young Africans temporarily estranged from their own cultures and not particularly well received by general British or French society. Thus IUS influence has been strong in such groups as the West African Students Union (WASU), in England, and the Federation des Etudiants Afrique Noire en France (FEANF), in France. The predominant IUS theme toward Africans has been one of anti-colonialism and racial equality with overtones of propaganda against non-communist "whites". In the meantime, the development of institutions of higher education within African countries has also led to the formation of indigenous student organizations which, by and large, have affiliated themselves to COSEC, and not to the IUS. Moreover, these indigenous groups in many cases have strongly resented the role WASU and FEANF have taken in representing them within the IUS. With the coming of independence to a number of African countries, direct IUS activity and material assistance to target groups from this area have increased, but with little success generally. The IUS has made progress recently in the Suda, which it is using to some degree as a base of operations against the rest of Africa, and its affiliates include the Tunisian, Moroccan and Algerian organizations which are also COSEC affiliated. The IUS position in Africa, south of the Sahara, however, remains very weak and it is not expected that student delegates from indigenous organizations in this area will attend the Peking Congress in any number.

3. Middle East. In line with general communist policy, the IUS takes a generally pro-Arab position, though its invective is directed more at the "western imperialists", whom the IUS charges with continued exploitation of the area, than at Israel. An Israeli group has maintained an associate membership in the IUS, for reasons related to concern for the Jewish minority within the Soviet Union; they see the IUS as a channel to this minority, though it has not proved so in practice. The IUS has been hampered in its Middle Eastern activities by the relative absence of nationally representative student organizations and the hostile attitude of a number of governments. There is no question, however, that the current Middle Eastern situation will have potential for the IUS and that it will be a major propaganda theme at the Peking Congress. The IUS has for some time published an Arabic edition of the World Student News, and at the last IUS Executive meeting in Leipzig in January 1958, the Arab delegates requested that more material appear in Arabic. Cheng Chi-ming, Chinese IUS secretary and head of the IUS Education, Culture and Travel Department, and Sadek Babek, Iranian IUS secretary and head of the IUS Colonial Bureau, attended the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference of December 1957 in Cairo, as IUS observers. There are indications that IUS and the communist youth front, the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), intend to use the Solidarity Conference permanent secretariat in Cairo to extend their own influence in the Afro-Asian area. In fact, the Afro-Asian Youth and Student Conference, scheduled for Cairo in February 1959 under the secretariat's sponsorship, obviously has heavy IUS and WFDY backing.

4. Asia. Despite concentrated effort in Asia, the IUS has yet to make a significant impact in most Asian countries. Its members in the area from non-communist countries include only the representative Zengakuren of Japan, which is closely tied to the JCP and splinter groups in Burma and India. The Indonesian student movement withdrew from IUS membership several years ago, and has continued to weaken any remaining informal ties to the IUS, while becoming at the same time a full participant in COSEC. The most ambitious IUS effort in Asia in recent years was its attempt to take over the Afro-Asian Student Conference held in Bandung in May-June 1956. This attempt failed, and the IUS was generally discredited among non-communists in the area for its role in the meeting. This has not prevented the IUS however from publicizing the results of this Conference in an effort to associate itself with this important event.

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D. The IUS engages in a number of activities in order to create a propaganda image of concern for the welfare of students, the advancement of their educational aims, and the broadening of their international contacts. Among these are the following:

1. Scholarships. According to the January 1958 IUS Nova Service, 65 IUS scholarships are offered "valid for complete courses of undergraduate study in different subjects," in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and the USSR. In the past, all these scholarships have not been taken up, but a majority of them certainly will be and the IUS effort will be directed toward selecting individuals with potential for leadership in the student and youth field internationally and in their home countries. The IUS, WFDY and their affiliates maintain contact with scholarship students while they are studying in the Orbit, offer them part time jobs as translators, interpreters, broadcasters and the like, during which they meet top specialists at WFDY and IUS headquarters and receive on-the-job training which provides them with invaluable knowledge and experience for later use in conjunction with front activities and indigenous communist parties in their home countries. This program, with its focus on young leaders, is but a part of the overall Orbit scholarship effort which involves thousands of individuals from the target areas.

2. Welfare. In Peking, the IUS maintains a sanatorium for Afro-Asian students, which according to IUS figures has treated some 1,100 pulmonary and TB patients from nine Asian countries, including China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and North Korea, and returned some 875 students to normal university life. A student health center in Calcutta, under IUS sponsorship, equipment for a dental clinic for the State Union of Students of Bahia, in Parana, Brazil, and X-Ray equipment for the university clinic in Petesi, Bolivia, are other projects.

3. Tours, camps and special meetings are further attractions for IUS affiliated student and guest groups. For example, the Fifth World Student Chess Championship, scheduled for 5-20 July 1958, at the Golden Sands Hotel in Varna, Bulgaria, on the Black Sea (cost \$2.50 per person in groups of four); the Summer Camp for Baltic Youth and the Friendship Rally of Students from Baltic Countries, scheduled for East Germany in the Summer of 1958; the International Youth Tourist Camp and International Hikers' Rally, scheduled for the USSR in the Summer of 1958; the International Conference of Students of Architecture, at Leningrad in July 1958; the International Seminar for Law Students, Sofia, Bulgaria, October 1958; and the Seminar for Young Experts on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, USSR, August 1958 -- all these are present opportunities for travel and learning to students, and at the same time present occasions for indoctrination and training to communist cadres. In terms of quantitative impact, these meetings and events are relatively unimportant, since they involve very few individuals and those who do participate are largely communists or Western Europeans not in any leadership capacity in their own organizations. More important to the IUS is the propaganda that can be built around these events, in posters and publications, to create an image of an active and appealing program. This effort is aimed in large part at specialized sectors of the student community and for establishing contacts with such specialized groups which can in turn be strengthened and expanded in other ways.

E. The IUS expelled the Yugoslav student delegation of the Peoples Youth of Yugoslavia (PYY) in 1950, following the Cominform attacks on Yugoslavia of 1948 and 1949. This expulsion was followed by a boycott of the PYY by various East European student organizations. Although the IUS Executive Council announced that their decision of 1950 was "incorrect" and "we believe that the Executive and the Secretariat should do everything in their power to see that this mistake and its consequences are put right and the way opened to negotiations and cooperation between Yugoslav students and the IUS" (following the Khrushchev-Tito rapprochement), the PYY has not responded favorably to this appeal. Yugoslav delegates have not attended IUS congresses since their expulsion. During the period 1955-1957, the PYY reestablished many of its bi-lateral contacts with Bloc student groups. However, an event occurred in January 1958 which presaged the recent Orbit attacks on the party program of the 7th Yugoslav Party Congress. In January 1958, the PYY sponsored meetings of the International Youth Commission, in Belgrade, as part of the congress of the PYY. The Russian delegation boycotted these meetings following

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the presentation of a paper by a Yugoslav member, in which he described the disunity and dissention presently existing between the international youth groups, as an outgrowth of the narrow minded bloc policies pursued by these groups, including the International Union of Students and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The suggestion that the IUS and the WFDY are narrow bloc groups, terms usually applied by the Soviet organizations to the Coordinating Secretariat of the International Student Conference (COSEC) and the World Assembly of Youth (WAY)--the free world counterparts of the IUS and the WFDY--was so offensive to the Soviet delegation that they refused to continue their participation in that phase of the congress. All of the East European delegations, with the exception of Poland, joined the Russians. The walkout was joined by the delegates from China, North Vietnam, North Korea and Mongolia. On 28 May, Belgrade radio "Tanyug" broadcast a statement by Mika Tripale, President of the PYY, in which he noted that some youth organizations of "socialist countries" were adopting the methods of 1948 and "breaking up their agreed forms of cooperation" with the Yugoslavs. He noted that Communist China's youth paper (the "Ch'ing Nien Jih Pao"--Youth Daily) had even published the Cominform resolution, in connection with its attacks. It is reliably reported that the policy of the PYY is to cooperate with youth organizations of all lands, while avoiding membership in any of the existing international youth groups which foster bloc policies. Note has recently been made of a PYY intention to strengthen its ties with Latin American organizations. Yugoslavia is also maintaining its youth contacts with Poland. A broadcast from Belgrade on 11 July notes that a delegation from the Central Committee of the Slovene Peoples Youth, led by Stane Kranje, Secretary of the Committee, will leave for Poland 15 July, at the invitation of the Polish socialist youth.

F. In December 1952, UNESCO withdrew the consultative status it had granted the IUS in July 1948, on the grounds that it had over that period of time consistently misused and abused its consultative privileges for propaganda purposes and attacked UN decisions and UN bodies. UNESCO took the position that the IUS had "proved not to be sufficiently interested in the aims and activities of UNESCO to keep up their contacts with it." The IUS has made repeated efforts to regain status, since its expulsion. UNESCO postponed consideration of these appeals until April 1958, when it again rejected the application. The rejection was probably based on the following facts:

1. The IUS and its affiliates continue to attack UN decisions and UN bodies, and attempt to use these bodies for partisan political purposes .
2. The IUS has consistently supported communist propaganda lines, and it has frequently attacked the findings and resolutions of the UN, and attempted to discredit the UN in the eyes of IUS members.
3. The IUS is unrepresentative of the world student community. Over 80% of its membership is derived from organizations in the Communist Orbit.

Some UNESCO members have indicated that the IUS could qualify for consultative status only if it would: a. Disavow and give up its political activities, b. Affirm its acceptance of the UNESCO Charter and the established limits within which UNESCO must operate, c. Show by its activities and public pronouncements that it acknowledges this charter and recognizes these limitations, d. Renounce the acts and statements officially made by the IUS in defiance of UN findings and decisions and, e. Acknowledge that the IUS is a partisan organization created and manipulated by the Communist Parties of the Orbit.

G. The Coordinating Secretariat of the National Unions of Students (COSEC) was formed by free world student unions in 1952, when it became clear that the Communist Bloc delegations were bent on using the IUS as a communist propaganda organ. It was the coordinating center for a voluntary union of representative national unions of students from 65 countries. There is only one representative national student union in the non-communist world which is not associated with COSEC (The Zengakuren, of Japan. See paragraph IV B 4).

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H. The following attachments contain general background information relevant to the Congress:

1. Attachment A: General background on the IUS.
2. Attachment B: Information on the current situation of the IUS and the WFDY.
3. Attachment C: Letters to an Asian student group from the IUS.
4. Attachment D: Article in the World Student News: "Let us Meet in Peking".

II. COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES

A. Although this dispatch is primarily directed toward the Peking Congress as a communist front propaganda event, it is important to place the Congress within the overall context of IUS activity and objectives. Past IUS Congresses have been useful to the IUS both as propaganda devices and as opportunities to assess and recruit delegates and observers. The propaganda intent is of two types: first, to attempt to give the impression of a large, active and important organization and to obscure the lack of representivity of its membership and; second, to further current communist propaganda objectives. On the first score, the IUS attempts to have as many representative groups attend as possible and, failing this, to bring splinter groups or mere individuals to represent given countries. Thus an IUS figure of "650 students from 65 countries" is obviously inflated and subject to considerable scaling down on analysis, but is still effective from an IUS propaganda standpoint. On the second propaganda objective, it can be expected that the three major current communist themes will be evident: Peace (particularly in connection with the Mid-East Crisis and the resolutions of the WPC meeting of mid-July, in Stockholm); Cessation of nuclear tests (with reference to the resolutions of the 4th World Anti-H and H Bomb Conference of mid-August, in Hiroshima, Japan) and; Anti-Colonialism (in the context of Arab Nationalism and the Mid-East Crisis).

B. It is certain that the Chinese Communists will use the Conference to enhance their stature throughout the world, and to send selected delegates home as propagandists for the diplomatic recognition of Communist China and its admission to the UN.

III. POLICY

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Attachments: A thru I as follows (UNCLASSIFIED) s/c - IDENTITY (SECRET) s/c

- A: General Background on the IUS
- B: Information on current situation of the IUS and WFDY
- C: Letters to an Asian student group from the IUS
- D: Article in the World Student News: Let us Meet in Peking"
- E: "AKAHATA" articles criticizing Zengakuren
- F: [REDACTED] reports on youth and student groups.
- G: Extracts from the PYY newssorgan "Youth Life"
- H: Extracts from the Chinese Communist press, on student unrest
- I: Australian student's report on Communist China
- J: *Students Under Communism*

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